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JAPAN AND CHINA

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equipment in exchange for critical raw materials like oil and coal fits China's economic requirements.

Second, Japan has become China's largest supplier of capital and technology. Japan has provided sophisticated industrial hardware and technology for almost all of China's modernization programs (it has not provided any military hardware). Furthermore, the Japanese have provided massive financial assistance to China since 1979. In addition to $8 billion in credits extended by a group of Japanese banks in 1979, the Japanese government has agreed to provide over $8 billion in "soft" loans through loan agreements signed with China since 1979. Japanese economic aid has not only helped China's modernization programs, but has also strengthened Sino–Japanese economic cooperation.

Third, Japan's willingness to help China's modernization programs is not exclusively based on economics but has a political motivation as well. In addition to economic and humanitarian purposes, Japan's overall foreign aid program has broad political objectives, including considerations of national security and the fostering of an international environment favorable to Japan. Tokyo is apparently willing to extend loans to China partly because it believes that the loans will help stabilize China under the pragmatic Deng leadership.

Japan and China also share a common strategic interest in containing the Soviet threat, since the Soviet military buildup in Asia, including the deployment of SS-20 intermediate-range missiles targeted at Japan and China, is perceived by Tokyo and Beijing as a serious threat. In dealing with the Soviet Union, Japan wants support from China and from the United States. Japanese leaders believe that Japan must keep China on the side of the Western bloc, because an unfriendly China drifting toward the Soviet orbit would seriously undermine Japanese and Western bloc security interests.

Beijing has toned down its anti-Soviet rhetoric in recent months partly because of its desire to reduce Sino–Soviet tensions and partly because of American arms sales to Taiwan. Instead of the formation of a global united front against Soviet "hegemonism," Beijing may be seeking a more balanced relationship with Washington and Moscow. However, unless Sino–American relations revert to the pre-1972 level of hostility—which seems unlikely—they are not expected to affect Sino–Japanese relations drastically. Thus, in the late 1980's, Japan and China will maintain close relations. ■

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reference other entries, and provide titles for background reading. The appendixes include the inclusive dates and the members of the Japanese Cabinets from 1885 to Suzuki's 1980 Cabinet. W.W.F. ■